

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 01731 210417Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /063 W

-----210421Z 019624 /63

P R 210131Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6573

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR1731

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MY US RP

SUBJ: LOCAL REACTIONS TO REPORTS OF AMB UNDERHILL'S PHILIPPINE BASES
RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 55608

(B) STATE 55054

1. SUMMARY. MALAYSIAN PRESS GAVE ONLY PASSING ATTENTION
TO REPORTS OF "WALL STREET JOURNAL" ARTICLE REPORTING LEAKED
CONFIDENTIAL TELEGRAM IN WHICH AMB UNDERHILL RECOMMENDED
WITHDRAWAL FROM SUBIC AND CLARK. THERE WAS NO EDITORIAL
COMMENT AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN ASKED MARCH 17 WAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 01731 210417Z

APPARENTLY UNAWARE OF THE MATTER. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL PRESS PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO WIRE SERVICE
STORIES REPORTING "WALL STREET JOURNAL" ARTICLE
ON LEAKED CONFIDENTIAL TELEGRAM IN WHICH AMB
UNDERHILL PRESENTED RATIONALE FOR A REDUCED US
MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES,

INCLUDING WITH DRAWAL FROM THE BASES AT SUBIC AND CLARK. STORY FIRST APPEARED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BACK PAGE OF THE "NEW STRAITS TIMES" MARCH 11 UNDER HEADING: "CARTER URGED TO PULL OUT MANILA FORCES BY US ENVOY HERE." TWO CHINESE LANGUAGE PAPERS CARRIED AFP AND UPI REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DAY, WHILE THE MALAY/ENGLISH LANGUAGE "WATAN" DID NOT CARRY IT UNTIL MARCH 14 WHEN IT RAN AN AP STORY DATED NEW YORK ON PAGE 14 UNDER: "COMPLETE US WITHDRAWAL FROM PHILIPPINE BASE." WE HAVE FOUND NO MENTION OF STORY IN MALAY LANGUAGE PRESS NOR WAS THERE EDITORIAL COMMENT IN ANY OF THE PAPERS.

3. THERE WERE NO INQUIRIES FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED TO AMB UNDERHILL YESTERDAY (MARCH 17) THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE REPORTS. ALTHOUGH GOM AMBASSADOR TO SEOUL JACK DESILVA PRIVATELY CHIDED EMBOFFS FOR "RUNNING OUT" ON THEIR ASIAN ALLIES, THE SUBJECT WAS APPARENTLY NOT MENTIONED AT THE GOM CHIEF OF MISSIONS' CONFERENCE WHICH TOOK PLACE LAST WEEKEND.

4. AMONG OUR REGULAR PRESS CONTACTS ONLY THREE COMMENTS HAVE BEEN RECORDED: "UTUSAN MALAYSIA" MANAGING EDITOR MAZLAN NOORDIN TOLD EMBOFFS HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR THE US TO PULL OUT OF THE PHILIPPINES; AP'S MANIAM SAID IF THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 01731 210417Z

US WITHDREW IT WOULD BE UNDERSTANDABLE BECAUSE OF MARCOS' OPPORTUNISTIC HANDLING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS; AND AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING'S WONG ASKED WHY UNDERHILL HAD BEEN "SELECTED" TO MAKE THE RECOMMENDATIONS. (SUSPICION THAT THE WHOLE THING WAS A CLUMSY PLOY TO AFFECT THE BARGAINING IN MANILA WAS EXPRESSED BY THE UPI CORRESPONDENT IN SINGAPORE WHO INTERVIEWED THE AMBASSADOR MARCH 14.) UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 3050857
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TAGS: PFOR, MY, US, RP, (UNDERHILL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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